

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD

No. 1,504. Vol. 58. [Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.]

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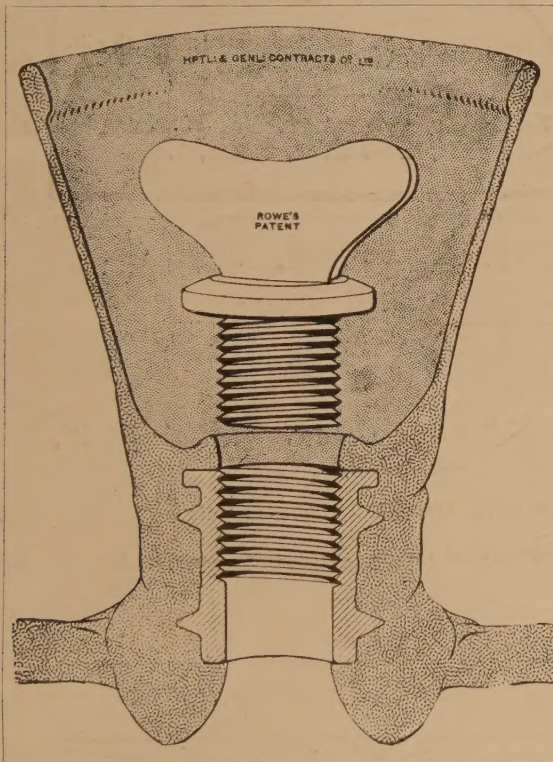
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THOMAS ROBINSON,
Secretary.

10th January, 1917.

45

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MATRON.

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By Order,
E. H. COATES,
Clerk.

Wetherby,
9th January, 1917.

67

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to the Editor should be addressed to her at

20, UPPER WIMPOLE ST., LONDON, W.
Phone—513 Mayfair.

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES
ETC.—continued.

THE GUARDIANS OF THE POOR of the Parish of ST. GILES, CAMBERWELL, REQUIRE for their Infirmary, Brunswick Square, Camberwell, SISTER for Massage Treatment. Candidates must hold the Certificate of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, and preference will be given to those candidates familiar with X-Ray Photography and the treatment of various forms of Electricity. Salary £50 per annum, with Board, Lodging, Washing and Uniform, and an allowance of £4 per annum in lieu of part Rations. Forms of application can be obtained upon personal application here, or by forwarding a stamped addressed foolscap envelope, and the same must, when duly completed, be returned to me not later than Thursday the 1st February, 1917.

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CHARLES S. STEVENS,
Clerk to the Guardians.

Guardians' Offices,
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23rd January, 1917.

64

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68

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65

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ARTHUR WATTS,
Secretary.

69

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H. WILLIS CHANDLER,
Clerk to the Guardians.

Basingstoke,
17th January, 1917.

70

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Forms of application can be obtained from the Matron.

CHARLES S. STEVENS,
Clerk to the Guardians.

Guardians' Offices,
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19th January, 1917.

54

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ERNEST T. WELLSTED,
Clerk of the Council.

23rd January, 1917.

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60

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71

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72

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73

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5

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62

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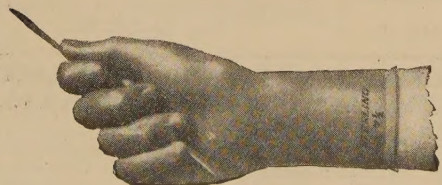
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WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,504.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1917.

Vol. LVIII.

EDITORIAL.

THE PASSING OF THE R. B. N. A.

In our present issue we report the special meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association held in London on January 18th, at which the members bestowed their Royal Charter on the College of Nursing Company, for, though much was said of fusion, the fact remains that if the arrangement entered into between the Association and the College is carried into effect, British nurses will no longer possess a Professional Association organized under a Royal Charter, but may become members of the Royal British College of Nursing, an educational body, the constitution of which admits the laity to membership and official control.

In another column we publish the review of a book—"Nursing Problems and Obligations" by one of the leaders of nursing thought and progress in America—Miss Sara E. Parsons, R.N.—which vividly reminds us of the aspirations which inspired those who worked for, paid for, and won the Royal Charter after they founded the British Nurses' Association thirty years ago.

Miss Parsons reminds us that the nurse "has her definite rights as well as her definite obligations. There is much that she should respect, but nothing that she need fear, so long as she is entirely honourable in her personal and professional relations. Her soul should be full of courage and aspirations . . . above all she must remember that the work needs her own interpretation, initiative, originality, anything but slavish imitation."

That is the spirit in which the British Nurses' Association was founded, giving generous representation to all grades on its governing body, one third doctors, one third Matrons, and one third Sisters and Nurses. Under its Royal Charter the first purpose of the Corporation was "the

founding and maintenance of schemes for the benefit of Nurses in the practice of their profession," so that the Association had certainly the power to organize a College of Nursing as one of its objects. Had those Matrons who for so long opposed the principle of State Registration desired to demonstrate their conversion they could have adopted no better method than by joining the Royal British Nurses' Association and helping to carry out the purposes for which it was founded. This they have not done, instead the College of Nursing has absorbed the Nurses' Royal Charter, and, whatever may be accomplished henceforth through its agency the nurses must realize that they have lost their Chartered Organization.

It was not a wedding ceremony as some speakers stated, but the funeral obsequies of the Royal British Nurses' Association which took place on January 18th. The Medical Hon. Secretary indeed spoke quite frankly of the Royal British Nurses' Association ceasing to exist, and the Royal British College of Nursing rising from its ashes, and said that the passing of the Association was a matter of sincere regret to him.

In these circumstances it is not a hopeful sign that the Council of the College has not placed one Sister or Nurse upon the Conjoint Council.

The point of main importance is, however, the attitude adopted by the College to a Nurses' Registration Bill. Will it promote a Bill claiming the government of the nursing profession for its own close corporation, or will it help to get a Bill through Parliament setting up an independent governing body for nurses, as provided by Act of Parliament for the organization of the medical, midwifery and teaching professions? Upon the answer to that question very large issues depend.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF DYSENTERY, AND HOW IS IT TREATED?

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Bessie Grey Johnson, Baldwin's Park, Bexley, Kent.

PRIZE PAPER.

Dysentery is an inflammation of the large intestine, or colitis, and sometimes of the lower part of the ileum, resulting in extreme ulceration, and accompanied by faecal discharges, which practically consist entirely of mucus, muco-pus, or blood.

The pathological changes and resulting symptoms are caused by the local invasion of living organisms, in some cases being "protozoa," in others "bacteria."

Its spread is attributable to polluted water, and to infection of food from the faecally-impregnated soil by means of flies and dust.

It is especially a disease of the tropics, where it is endemic in certain places, but it also spreads in an epidemic form, and is most prevalent during the rainy season.

In temperate climates epidemic dysentery results from over-crowding and insanitary conditions. Its invasion of any individual is favoured by depressing conditions, such as alcoholic indulgence, exposure to cold, a preceding malarial attack, ingestion of unsuitable food, and habitual constipation.

Dysentery occurs in asylums for the insane where the hygienic conditions are good, but the invasion is due then to the lowered nervous force of the patients.

The organisms may be transmitted by healthy persons (dysentery carriers) in precisely the same way as those of typhoid fever.

Treatment.

The patient should be kept warm in bed, and should use the bedpan for all evacuations, these being thoroughly disinfected, as well as all linen, instruments, and utensils used.

Medicinally the treatment by saline laxatives or castor oil is very efficient.

Ipecacuanha is a most valuable drug in the treatment of tropical dysentery, and is usually prescribed in doses of 20-30 grains suspended in 2 drachms of syrup of orange peel and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of water. A similar dose is given again after ten hours, or, if rejected, repeated after the stomach is quiet; further doses of 10 grains should then be given night and morning until the stools become natural and mucus and blood disappear. When this stage is reached, astringents, such as bismuth and opium, help to complete the cure. A small dose of tincture of opii or chlorodyne, given half an hour before

the ipecacuanha, obviates the emetic action, the patient being kept lying down after, and given nothing to drink before the dose of ipecacuanha is given.

Emetine, the alkaloid of ipecacuanha, produces very good results; the intestinal trouble yields sooner, and hepatitis and hepatic abscess are less frequent when the above-mentioned is used.

Half a grain should be injected subcutaneously once or twice daily.

If there is not too much tenesmus, rectal injections of either of the following solutions, as prescribed, warmed to 100° F., should be allowed to run slowly into the bowel from a funnel through a long soft tube:—

Boric acid, 1 drachm to 1 pint.

Nitrate of silver, 5 or 10 grains to 1 pint.

Quinine, 10 grains to 1 pint.

The quantity injected should be at least thirty ounces, and retained as long as possible.

Abdominal pain is relieved by poultices, and tenesmus by opium or morphia suppositories.

Gangrenous cases may require operative treatment and the irrigation of the lower bowel with quinine solution.

Only light fluid diet must be given, such as milk, milk and lime water, chicken broth, eggs, sago, arrowroot, and tapioca; these are given warm, as cold liquids are liable to stimulate the peristaltic movements of the bowel.

Stimulants, except in cases of collapse, should be given in small quantities only.

As the case improves, solid diet of farinaceous food and tender meat may be allowed, but no vegetables.

Continued rest, and iron and bitter tonics, counteract anæmia.

In very severe cases, treatment by an anti-toxic serum may be employed, the serum being injected subcutaneously in a dose of 20 c.c. twice daily, and in some cases two or four times daily for three days.

In view of the occurrence of carriers, convalescents should be isolated till the examination of stools have given three negative results at weekly intervals.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss E. A. Noblett, Miss I. F. Donald, Miss H. Ballard, Miss G. L. Shepperd, Miss C. G. Cheatley, Miss E. Trevethan.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Describe the symptoms in a severe case of influenza. Suggest proper nursing to be employed in such a case. State the period of incubation, and the period of isolation. What complications may occur in the course of the disease?

NURSING AND THE WAR.

We are able, by the courtesy of the Editor of the *Queen*, to publish the accompanying portrait of Miss Kate Carruthers, of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, who, as we have reported, has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery and devotion to duty at the Front, after being wounded by a fragment of a bomb from enemy aircraft. Miss Carruthers was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

The members of the Nursing Staff of King George Hospital have given a Christmas donation of £54 17s. 6d. to the "Star and Garter" Hospital for Soldiers at Richmond. Work is in active progress on the foundations of the new buildings which are to be of grey and not red brick. The site is magnificent, and donations are still flowing in on a generous scale. £1,000 endows a bed in perpetuity.

The Nursing Staff of the Paddington Infirmary have since June, 1915, collected £38, and have sent parcels of food to three prisoners of war whom they have adopted. Forty-three boxes have been sent in addition to weekly supplies of bread. Each Christmas they have had a special parcel containing a plum pudding, made by the Home Sister, in addition to the usual contents. In view of the recent regulations it is not now possible to send any more parcels, but the nursing staff will still continue to subscribe to the funds of the Central Committee who now undertake to forward parcels to prisoners of war.

We are asked by the Secretary of Queen Mary's

Hospital for the East End, Stratford, E., with which is incorporated the West Ham and Eastern General Hospital, to state that Acting Sister, Miss K. E. Haywood, of the Civil Hospital Reserve, who was mentioned in despatches as of "West Ham Infirmary," was Home Sister at the above hospital.



MISS KATE CARRUTHERS,
Awarded the Military Medal for bravery and devotion in her
hospital work at the front.

Sister Whent, recently mentioned in despatches for excellent work in France, was trained at the North Ormesby Hospital, Middlesbrough, and her colleagues are naturally proud of her record. Sister Whent recently went to Paris to study the new treatment for burns, mentioned in this journal, also special aseptic treatment, which it is hoped may save many injured limbs.

The Committee of the Dundee Sick Poor Nursing Society, which met recently, passed the following resolution:—"The Committee have heard with pride and satisfaction of the honour of the Royal Red Cross, 1st Class, being bestowed upon Miss W. S. Milne, the Superintendent of the Home, who is at present Matron of a General Hospital at Salonika, and they desire to express to her their heartiest congratulations, and to assure her of a warm welcome on her return to Dundee."

Miss W. S. Milne, Matron in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, has been engaged on War Hospital work practically since the beginning of the war. She first held the post of Matron in the Military Hospital at Nottingham. Over a year ago she was sent by the War Office to Salonika. On arrival at Alexandria, Miss Milne and her staff of nurses were commandeered to help in nursing the wounded from

Gallipoli. After a few weeks they proceeded to Salonika, where they were amongst the first to have a new hospital in working order.

Three ladies who were previously engaged in Dundee Royal Infirmary have had the distinction of being singled out for official recognition of their valuable services. They are:—Acting Sister M. H. G. Fisher, of the Civil Hospital Reserve; Sister E. U. Jacques, of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Reserve; and Sister I. Woodford, of the Territorial Force Nursing Service. Miss Jacques and Miss Woodford belong to England, but prior to the outbreak of war were on the staff of Dundee Royal Infirmary, Miss Woodford acting as Assistant Matron, and the Infirmary is very proud of them all.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM THE AMBULANCE DE L'OCEAN, LA PANNE.

"You see, practically, this is a university, and we have all the biggest surgeons in Europe—and sometimes from America, too—coming to learn our new treatments and see some of the wonderful work we are doing. This huge hospital, only a few miles from the Front, is absolutely unique in many ways and especially in its advanced scientific methods. We constantly have medical conferences here—just imagine it. It is, of course, the mixture of clearing hospital, university and war hospital that makes it so serious when we are shorthanded. We have just had big laboratories built and most minute research work is going on; in the very next building the men are being brought in straight from the trenches, with only their field dressing on. In bad cases, the patient is laid on an electric bed, where he can be radiographed without moving, given anti-tetanic serum, undressed, washed; the blood pressure, pulse and temperature taken every half-hour—(an operating theatre adjourns this ward—and, if it be urgent, he is operated on)—then taken off to the ward where he is to be nursed. All that kind of thing demands good nursing. The things that are being done here every day are simply staggering. The other day, we had a man with a stump that would not heal, and we had an Italian graft done. . . . A brancardier offered himself for the purpose and a hole was cut in his side; the stump was opened up and stitched firmly to the two gaping sides of the man's wound so that the healthy granulations of the brancardier should cover the unhealthy stump; then the flap put over and sewn down. Just think of the nursing required for twelve days for these two men who were sewn together and one movement would spoil the whole thing.

"Then we have an experimental ward, where all sorts of treatments are tried. We have a man wounded in both legs—perhaps Carrel treatment is tried for one leg, and quinine or powdered sugar or some other tried for the other. . . . The work done is absolutely magnificent."

JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The following Sisters have been deputed for duty in the Home Hospitals:—

Red X Hosp., Stroud, Glos.—Miss S. Lyons.
Dan-y-wed R. X Hosp., Blackpill, Glam.—Miss L. Mayhall.
Mount Blow, Gt. Shelford.—Miss M. Beresford.
R. X Hosp., Llandoverly.—Miss J. L. Cooper.
Christchurch R. X Hosp., Hants.—Miss D. E. M. Bannister.
Normanhurst V.A.D., Battle.—Miss E. Allan.
R. X Hosp., Waterloo, Hants.—Miss E. O'Rourke.
Broom House Aux. Hosp., West Horsley.—Miss C. H. England.
Aux. Hosp., Aberdare.—Miss O. E. Robyns.
Clandon Park Hosp., Guildford.—Miss F. Dormer, Miss E. H. Stokes.
R. X Hosp., Oaklands, Clevedon.—Miss E. Blair.
V.A.D., Hazlewood, Ryde.—Miss E. M. Robinson.
Henham Hall Hosp., Wangford.—Miss E. P. Mackie.
Lambeth Aux. Hosp., Norwood.—Mrs. Vera M. Bond.
V.A.D. Hosp., Salcombe.—Miss M. Wilkins.
R. X Hosp., Watnulloch, Bolton.—Miss A. Bleasdale.
Aytrahane Park Hosp., Tondur.—Miss T. Myles.
Aux. Hosp., Uppingham.—Miss N. P. Wheeler.
Singholme R. X H., Walton-on-Naze.—Miss N. Hogan.
Inniscalla, Bath Rd., Reading.—Miss O. T. Dymore Brown.
R. X H., Newport Rd., Cardiff.—Miss E. Hanson.
R. X H., North Walsham.—Miss H. Blackburn.
V.A.D., Hatfield.—Miss E. Coome.
Abingdon Avenue V.A.D., Northampton.—Miss M. B. M. Calders.
R. X H., Yatley.—Miss A. Broome.
St. George's Hill, Weybridge.—Miss A. Sim.
Harwarden House, Norwich.—Miss H. A. Thompson.
R. X H., The Barracks, Grantham.—Miss G. Hart.
R. X H., Kenilworth.—Miss L. Lietti.
Bilton Hall, Rugby.—Miss M. A. Blackmore.
Hoole Bank, Chester.—Miss E. M. Dowling.
Hosp. for Facial Injuries, Brook St.—Miss E. Craig.
Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks.—Miss V. Plunkett.
10, Palace Green, Westminster.—Miss L. K. Davies.
R. X H., Gillingham.—Miss N. Bowman.
R. X H., Wimborne.—Miss O. Pound.
Aux. Hosp., Nethercourt, Ramsgate.—Miss P. Parcell.
5 Mil. Hosp., Exeter.—Miss M. E. Crocker.
R. X H., Bulford, Salisbury.—Mrs. A. Alexander.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

A proud duty devolved upon the Matron of the Overcliff Hospital, Westcliff-on-Sea, when she was commissioned to decorate Sergeant Tuach, of the Canadians, with the Military Medal. The gallant Sergeant, regardless of danger, rendered help to the wounded in No Man's Land under heavy fire, being wounded himself while caring for his comrades.

Queen Alexandra recently paid a visit to Endell Street Military Hospital, when a patient, an Ulster man, remarked to the Sister: "I do hope the Queen Alexandra will visit this Ward. I have never seen royalty except Sir Edward Carson!"

The Queen of the Belgians, who is in and out of the hospitals for Belgian wounded, wearing a nurse's uniform, and doing all she can for their comfort, lately had over Mr. Frank Stanley, the well-known Leeds prestidigitateur, and Mr. Arthur Thomas, to entertain the sick and wounded Belgian soldiers. The Queen attended an entertainment and showed her appreciation by repeated applause. Many English nurses are at La Panne and elsewhere, and they also thoroughly enjoyed the visit of their amusing compatriots. The artistes were entertained at dinner by Dr. Depage, the King's physician, who has devoted his life to the care of the wounded since those terrible days in Belgium in 1914.

At Frognal, Foot's Cray, Kent, the residence of the late Earl of Sydney, is to be established the Queen's Auxiliary Hospital for Sailors and Soldiers suffering from Facial Injuries. Here it is proposed to concentrate a large number of these special cases, and, amid delightful surroundings and country air, to endeavour to secure the welfare and future of the men, while brightening their lives during convalescence.

Extensive gardens and a farm of 100 acres are attached to the house, where, with a view to their future employment, the patients will be instructed in outdoor occupations, such as gardening, market-gardening, dairywork, poultry farming, and forestry. In addition workshops will be provided for practical instruction in estate carpentry and other handicrafts, and work in connection with electricity, agricultural machinery, and motor traction.

The scheme is planned and is being organised by Mr. C. H. Kenderdine, one of the originators of Queen Mary's Convalescent Auxiliary Hospital, Roehampton, for limbless sailors and soldiers. It will doubtless supply a great need, and its value to a large number of our most grievously wounded soldiers cannot be over-estimated.

The two previous Red Cross sales at Christie's raised well over £100,000. No wonder, then, that it has been decided to hold a third. The date of the sale is the end of next March. Some very valuable gifts have already been received.

A true daughter of France is Marcelle Semmer, a girl of 21, who has been decorated with the Croix de la Guerre and the Legion of Honour. In 1914 she opened the sluice gates of a canal, under German fire, and so held up the enemy. She also provided with civilian clothes sixteen French soldiers; and when, after being caught in the act of feeding a soldier, she was condemned to death, said, "I am an orphan and have but one mother—France; do with me what you will."

The following Sisters have been awarded the Military Medal: Sisters Kate Mahony and Ethel Kate Thompson, of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service; and Sister Mabel Louise Evans, of the Territorial Force Nursing Service. This is a great and much appreciated honour; we congratulate the happy trio.



THE MATRON OF THE OVERCLIFF HOSPITAL, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, DECORATING SERGT. TUACH, OF THE CANADIANS, WITH THE MILITARY MEDAL.

RUSSIAN RED CROSS SISTERS.

Writing on Red Cross Sisters in Russia in the magazine of the N.U.I.N., Miss Violetta Thurstan says:—

"Russian nurses are called 'Sister' from the first day they enter their training schools. They are considered and spoken of always as Sisters of Mercy, though they do not take any religious vows. Some of the training schools are very strict, and do not allow their sisters to walk in the street with any man, even if it is a near relative, nor to take any meal in a public tea-room or restaurant.

"The term of training varies from two and a half to four years, and this always includes a course in the dispensary. At the end of the training the sister receives a certificate and is diplômée, having the right to wear a red cross sewn on to the bib of her apron. No one is allowed to wear the red cross on their apron unless they are fully trained, though they may and do wear it on their arm as a brassard.

"The various 'obschenas,' or training schools, have slightly different uniforms for their nurses. The dresses are of cotton, either dark brown, dark blue, or grey. The ordinary aprons are of blue check on weekdays, black alpaca on Sundays and a small white cambric one on very special occasions. The cap is usually of the Army handkerchief type, but it is so arranged as to conceal all the hair, and fastens in front instead of at the back. When the sisters enter the wards they invariably put on a white theatre overall that covers them up from head to foot. They are so wedded to the idea that this is the only possible garment to wear in the wards that they will occasionally cover up a spotless apron, just put on, with a crumpled, none too clean overall; but this is exceptional, as Russian sisters are extremely well trained in the matter of asepsis, and are far beyond ourselves in many ways in this respect. They are inclined to despise English nurses for not being as particular as they are in many little ways, and are particularly shocked at the way English nurses leave their hair uncovered. They often ask if we are not afraid that dust from the hair might fall on to the wound. Most of their training time is given up to surgical work; indeed at some of the training schools in Petrograd no medical cases are taken at all. The result is, of course, that the bandaging and dressing is exquisitely done and an example to most English nurses, while the art of nursing, as we have it in England, is—apart from the wound—entirely unknown. That is to say, if a man is admitted with a severe wound in the chest, the wound is most carefully and adequately treated and beautifully bandaged, while the pneumonia that accompanies it is hardly nursed at all. There is little or no sponging down of feverish patients, no 'art of bedmaking,'—the 'sedeilka,' or ward-maid, generally makes the bed—and very little idea of

bringing dainty little dishes to tempt the patient's appetite; if they do not like, or do not want, what is provided, they simply leave it.

"Russian food is very good and of great variety. The sisters are generally well fed in hospital, and in any case very rarely grumble about their food. At the front, where food was often scarce, the Russian sisters never minded, and were quite cheerful if there did not happen to be any dinner that day. The usual hours for meals are:—

Coffee and bread and butter at 7 or 7.30 a.m.

Dinner at 3 p.m. or 3.30, two courses, followed by tea and biscuits.

Supper about 8 or 8.30, again followed by tea.

No regular meal is provided for night duty; tea can be had at any time.

"There is no regular staff of night nurses; the sisters take it in turns to sit up. When the wards are very busy, this is extremely tiring. One's turn may come once or even twice in a week and it means all day on duty, all night, and then all day again. When the wards are slack, however, a morning off, for sleep, is given after the night's duty.

"Russian sisters are extremely kind and gentle to their patients, and much beloved by them; indeed, such a thing as a troublesome patient is almost unknown.

"Russian hospitals are generally very large, and look drab, dreary places sometimes, without the pretty counterpanes, books and flowers, of our English hospitals. Dressings are almost never done in the wards; the atmosphere would be considered too septic. The patients are put on a stretcher and carried off to the dressing room. This has many advantages, but also some disadvantages, as in bad fracture cases, for instance, it is not always beneficial to the patient to be lifted from the bed to the stretcher, from the stretcher to the table in the dressing-room, then back to the stretcher, and, finally, back to bed.

"There is much that we can mutually learn from each other. The Russian sisters can teach us a good deal about surgical work, and their self-sacrifice, extreme endurance, and devotion to duty, teach us many a lesson. From us they have very much to learn as regards actual nursing and making the patient comfortable. In Moscow there has been a movement on foot for some time to introduce the English system of nursing into that city, and the Municipality have now just applied to the National Union of Trained Nurses to send a fully trained nurse out as Matron of one of the Military Hospitals. So the little seed has been sown; let us hope that it may bring about a great harvest."

The Chelsea Hospital for Women has received from the Trustees of the Zunz Bequest £5,000, being the balance of the £10,000 generously promised by the Trustees towards the rebuilding of the hospital.

THE CHURCH OF MEMORIES.

SOMEWHERE IN BELGIUM.

* The little Church of Ste. Elisabeth stands among the grey dunes looking out on the silvery sea.

A gentle, almost imperceptible rain is falling.

* The whole world seems a symphony of grey just now, a soft, grey sky, grey sand dunes veiled by a film of mist, a sea pearly as the iridescent breast of a dove.

The fisherfolk trawling off the coast see no friendly little light of a Sunday evening twinkling from these windows, the church hides modestly, sheltered by the dunes, bowing its head, fearing to be seen. For the Church of Ste. Elisabeth is an *église de guerre*, and had it a tower or a spire like some of its more important neighbours, it would have been shelled away long ago even as they. It is a plain wooden structure put together by the soldiers themselves, and you will notice that they have hung the great black wooden Cross bearing the piteous Christ on the wall furthest away from the German guns.

* * * * *

Now the mist has rolled right up enveloping everything and muffling every sound; even the waves lapping up on the shore are no longer heard and the shrill voice of the seagull is silent.

Enter and you will see that the Church is full of spectral forms. Can it be that these phantom shapes, gleaming faintly in the blueness of the twilight, are the ghosts of the innocent victims who have lost their lives and who have come together to mourn the tragedy of Belgium?

Look again, and you will see that this little church is a sanctuary, full of poignant memories of what has been. This is the home for the crucifixes, the statues, the holy things from the bombarded churches in the neighbourhood. There hangs a great broken crucifix found unaccountably in the trenches at Pervyse, a poor, battered St. Lawrence, and a less maimed St. Christopher from Nieuport, some worm-eaten prie-dieu, one of the drab velvet cushions pierced and burnt by a bullet passing through. There on a stand is the mediæval copper reliquary that was once one of the glories of the church at Caesherbe. That fragment of masonry in the corner is all that is left of the altar at Avchappelle, and most of those brass candlesticks huddled up together once stood upon it. You may, if you choose, say your prayers beside the Madonna from Ramskapelle, from whose tender arms the Child has been torn by a fragment of shell and splintered into a thousand pieces. She stands there with Her piteous empty arms outstretched, and another mother, mourning her only son has crept into the Church and knelt down beside Her, for comfort and sympathy in her loss. . . .

* * * * *

One can picture the priest-in-charge in this place of memories. He should be an ancient Abbé clad in a rusty black soutane, sympathy and

resignation shining out of his eyes as he ministers to his tiny flock.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The next morning a cheerful young priest in khaki, muddy to the knees, tramps up the side aisle, threads his way between the statues, and after the usual preparations, says a brisk Mass.

The shadows and the silence of the night before are gone.

The sky is a pale November blue, the wind has risen in the night and is whistling in the timbers, the tide is rolling in with rhythmic frenzy and passion, lashing the flat ochre sand. Just overhead an aeroplane or two are humming, guns far away are thundering dully.

The chapel is quite full, a few village people, some hospital patients in grey and scarlet, a few Nursing Sisters in blue dresses and soft white caps, a good many *petits soldats belges* in their new khaki, so like and so unlike the English soldiers.

Presently the priest gets up into the pulpit and begins to preach a little sermon. "Blessed are ye that mourn," he began, but his voice was almost drowned by the clamour of the guns. Dicke Bertha had begun to bombard X—two or three kilometres away and our guns were replying hotly to the challenge. But no one takes much notice of it, the rumble of the guns is almost as ceaseless as the roar of the sea, and like the sea, sometimes it is more, sometimes it is less, that is all.

And the *blessés* hobble painfully out of Church presently and see two specks high up in the sky and speculate idly whether the intruders will drop bombs or not. Two of them have a bet on it, and the one who bets that they are Taubes wins.

* * * * *

And after a time silence reigned again in the little Church of Memories.

FOR A JUST BILL.

Miss Annie Hulme sends £5 to the President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses "for a just Bill." She writes: "I wish I could send £100." Every member of the Society owes a debt of gratitude to those who are able and willing to give such generous support to our movement for a Bill which provides for the organisation of the Nursing profession on a just and independent basis. It is now quite apparent that this fundamental principle will not be conceded unless we continue to work and pay for it in the future as we have done in the past. Ignoble subjugation must be resisted.

TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

Nurse with enquiring mind invited to join the College of Nursing: "Please, Matron, can you tell me—"

Matron, smiling benevolently and patting Nurse: "You be a good little girl and do as you're told. Just run away and join the College."

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

The meeting convened by Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to consider the proposed amalgamation of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with the Association, was held in the Lecture Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W., on Thursday, January 18th, at 2.30 p.m.

There were present on the platform Dr. Bezly Thorne (in the chair), Sir James Crichton Browne, Dr. Herbert Paterson (Medical Hon. Secretary), Mr. Comyns Berkeley (Hon. Treasurer), and Mrs. Campbell Thomson (Nurse Hon. Secretary), Professor Glaister, and Mr. Pitt, the solicitor. The Hon. Arthur Stanley was also present on the platform throughout the proceedings.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, said that the members had been invited to attend it to record their votes on the most important question that had been before it for thirty years, namely, to consider the question of fusion with the College of Nursing in such a manner as to constitute one body. The project had been laid before them in the *Nurses' Journal*, and in the terms of the Resolution and he desired to add that their gracious President, whose absence they all regretted, the Hon. Officers, the Executive and the Council had weighed and pondered everything that could be said for and against the scheme, and had unanimously come to the conclusion that the fusion would be for the benefit of both, the increased dignity and efficiency of the nursing profession and the benefit of the public.

AMALGAMATION.

DR. HERBERT PATERSON then moved the following Resolution:—

"That the Agreement dated the 21st day of December, 1916, for the Amalgamation of the College of Nursing, Limited, with this Association be confirmed, and that, subject to new Bye-laws being approved by the Privy Council, the Bye-laws of the 10th day of June, 1898, shall be annulled."

A LUSCIOUS FRUIT.

He said that as they were aware, the Hon. Arthur Stanley had brought forward a scheme, at the beginning of 1916, to form a College of Nursing. At first it was regarded with suspicion by the Council of the R.B.N.A., but it was remarkable how the original germ, garnished and pruned, had grown into a luscious fruit. In this instance in the multitude of Councillors there had been wisdom. This ripe and luscious fruit was now dangling before their eyes, and he invited them to pluck it and make the Association a powerful body.

He was opposed to lay control, and at first was of opinion that there was too much lay influence on the Council, but, as now nominated, there were only two laymen. He thought they owed a debt

of gratitude to the Hon. Arthur Stanley for the energy and diplomacy he had shown in carrying out the scheme.

It had been objected that the Council was a nominated body. That was so in the first instance, but the members of the Council would eventually be elected by members of the College, and therefore if it were not a democratic body it would be their own fault.

Another important safeguard conceded by the College was that the right of appeal was secured to a member concerning the removal of her name from the Roll. They were not there, however, to balance their respective gains and losses, but to consider whether the proposed amalgamation was for the ultimate good of the Nursing Profession. The aims of the College of Nursing were the establishment of a uniform curriculum, a one-portal examination, and State Registration. These were the aims of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and he thought they might adopt the words of the Wedding Service, and regard the proposed amalgamation as providing for the "mutual society, help and comfort that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity," and was of opinion that the proposed combination would mutually assist them. He hoped before long they would see State Registration of Nurses an accomplished fact, and with it the adoption of a registered uniform.

One result of the combination would be that the opposition of the majority of the large training schools would be removed, also the two bodies, united, and working together, would have greater driving force than if they worked separately. Union was Strength. During the present war trained nurses had, by their work, greatly strengthened their position, and rendered the nation their debtor. It was now time to close up their ranks. They should not adopt a policy of "Wait and See" but of "Demand and Get."

The Council had had the advisability of fusion with the College under consideration for many months, and the President had taken an active interest in the question. The Council, as they had heard, was unanimously in favour of the project, and they had got all for which they had asked. Mr. Pitt, solicitor to the Corporation, would be solicitor to the united body, Miss Macdonald would be the Registrar, and in that position would be responsible directly to the Council. She would keep the Register, and sign the certificates, and the private nursing staff would be kept on, on the same basis as before.

A PRIVATE COMPACT.

It was not possible to embody all the conditions on which they had laid stress in the Supplemental Charter and Bye Laws. Until the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing had ceased to exist, and the Royal British College of Nursing had risen triumphantly from the ashes of both, pledges could not be given in black and white. But they had had a letter from Mr. Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry agreeing to their conditions, and he thought they

could trust these gentlemen to feel in honour bound to see that the wishes of the Association were carried out.

They welcomed their colleagues from the College with open arms, and hoped that the two bodies would live together in godly love and honesty, working together in a common cause.

The present was the last meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association. At first he was against amalgamation, but now that the scheme was modified he felt it was for the ultimate good of the Association, the passing of which was a matter of sincere regret to him.

The Resolution was seconded by MRS. LATTER, who, speaking from the body of the Hall, said that the whole of Europe was in the smelting pot, and forces were making for disintegration, party politics had given way, and nurses must set their house in order so that they might have a place in the sun.

SIR JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE, in supporting the resolution, said that the establishment of the General Medical Council had saved his own profession from decadence. The seed of nursing reform had been sown in the Crimea, but there was still room for improvement, and much needed to be done. If they amalgamated with the College they would get State Registration. He presumed all members of the R.B.N.A., or almost all, were in favour of State Registration, and it was never more necessary than to-day. Enormous numbers of amateurs were doing nursing work during the war, and of those who had not been absorbed by matrimony, many would continue after the war to pose as nurses and compete with real nurses taking the bread out of their mouths.

All the Bills for the Registration of Nurses introduced into Parliament had failed,* and owing to causes into which he need not enter the R.B.N.A. had not fulfilled the promise of its youth, but he hoped that new endowments would flow in and the Charter of the R.B.N.A. would be converted into the Magna Charta of the Nursing Profession in this country.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY.

PROFESSOR GLAISTER said he had come from the North to assist at the wedding ceremony. During the last twenty years efforts had been made to obtain State Registration of Nurses, and the spade work that had been done should not be for-

gotten. In the North they were keen for State Registration. He hoped they would all go forward unanimously in support of the principle and let details go.

MRS. WYATT (Falmouth) also supported the resolution

RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH.

MISS A. J. BEATTY said they had been told of the failure of the Association. What was the cause? It was that the nurses had not had power. (Interruption and "sit down.") It was formed for the benefit of nurses, to work for their welfare. To-day, there were no nurses on the platform. (Hisses.) She claimed the right of free speech. (Hisses.) Dr. Curry here appealed to the Chairman, who made no attempt to protect free speech, and said that he hoped the lady would be allowed a hearing.

Miss Beatty said it was the third time she had been interrupted. She had the floor, and she claimed her right, as a member of the Association, to speak; they could hiss when she had finished.

The Association in its early days was a flourishing concern and had a Royal Charter won by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Dr. Bedford Fenwick. It was only when the medical profession obtained control that it became weak. Its offices used to be pleasant places frequented by nurses. She had been to the office that afternoon, and found one servant there who grumbled at having to tell her where the meeting was. Now they were going to ask lay people to help to manage them. The medical members had tried to do so, and had failed. She doubted if things would improve under lay management. It was only when nurses managed their own affairs that they would become an influential body. They had been told that the meeting was a marriage ceremony; she considered it a funeral.

A GRATUITOUS INSULT TO THE FOUNDERS.

DR. CURRY regretted that there should be one dissentient voice, but believed that the lady who had just spoken had done so with heartfelt sincerity.

In supporting the resolution he said that some members had been afraid of the lamb lying down with the lion, lest it should do so inside the lion; but he thought the Royal College of Nursing—licensed by the State to grant degrees—would have great influence, and carry more weight than a Bedford Fenwick Association of Nurses.† He did not say that in any offensive spirit to his colleague and his distinguished wife. He hoped all would stand on one platform.

MRS. DACRE CRAVEN supported the resolution, as the oldest living Florence Nightingale probationer.

* This is contrary to facts. The Bill introduced by Lord Ampthill into the House of Lords in 1908 was fully debated and passed on November 10th of that year without a division having been taken at any stage with the support of the Government and of the Leader of the Opposition. When the Bill promoted by the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses was introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Chapple, M.P., under the ten minutes' rule, in 1914 on, a division being taken there was a majority of 229 in favour of leave being given to bring in the Bill, largely the result of the "spade work" done by the members of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, and the Central Committee, and in spite of the opposition of some of the leading promoters of the College.

† Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has taken no part in the management of the Association, and is therefore in no way responsible for its failure, since new Bye-Laws were passed in 1898, to which she was opposed. She founded the Association in 1887 as a British Nurses' Association and has always disapproved of the monopoly of power by the Hon. Medical Officers.

MISS MELROSE (Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow), also supported it.

DR. WALTER GRIFFITH ASKS A PERTINENT QUESTION.

DR. WALTER GRIFFITH enquired whether, by agreeing to the amalgamation, the members were considered to agree to the Supplemental Charter.

The Chairman said it was open to anybody to send objections to the Executive or to the Privy Council.

Dr. Griffith said the new body proposed to take power to register all kinds of nurses. What would be its relationship to the Central Midwives Board? Again, was it proposed that the new body should have the education of nurses in hand with powers comparable to those of the General Medical Council and the Central Midwives Board?

The Chairman said he apprehended that the Council of the College would never interfere with the powers of the Central Midwives Board. The College of Nursing could not enforce any standard until it obtained the necessary power. Presumably, it would take as much power as it could get.

Dr. Griffith said the answer was not as clear a reply to his question as he would have liked to have. Was it possible that they wanted power for the government of the nursing profession put into the hands of the Council of the College? Would not the body entrusted with those powers be appointed in the same way as the General Medical Council and the Central Midwives Board? (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman said that such a body would have to be appointed by Act of Parliament.

MR. COMYNS BERKELEY expressed the opinion that the amalgamation was of vital importance to the interests of the Association; and would bring in the most important Matrons in England and Scotland, and, they hoped later, in Ireland.

The resolution was then put from the Chair and carried *nemine contradicente*, the feeling evidently being strongly in favour of amalgamation.

The Chairman then said he had omitted to read sooner a message from H.R.H. Princess Christian, who wrote that she had come to the definite conclusion that fusion of the two bodies could and would be of great advantage both to the nursing profession at large and the public generally. As regarded themselves it would bring them an acquisition of strength, and widen their sphere of influence.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the Chair and the Hon. Officers, and to Miss Macdonald, the Secretary, whose work for the Association was evidently deeply appreciated by the members present.

The Proposed Scheme of Amalgamation and the new Bye-Laws were not discussed, nor was the nature of the written compact between the Hon. Officers of the two bodies disclosed.

MEETING AT LEEDS.

A Meeting to further the College of Nursing was held at the Philosophical Hall at Leeds, on the 19th inst. Alderman Lupton, Chairman of the Leeds General Infirmary, presided; and Mr. Arthur Stanley, M.P., and Miss S. Swift attended. The former announced, with much gratification the "amalgamation of the R.B.N.A. with the College" and the discarding of the word "Limited." Miss Swift said it was very important there should be uniformity of qualification secured by uniformity of curriculum and a single portal examination. In reply to a question, she announced that there would be a supplementary register of nurses who had devoted themselves to work amongst children!

In seconding a vote of thanks, Lt.-Col. Littlewood suggested that Mr. Stanley might well be one of the first "Fellows" of the College of Nursing.

LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

The Winter General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held in the Clinical Theatre of the Hospital on Saturday last. The President, Miss Cox-Davies, R.R.C., was in the chair, and was supported on the platform by Miss Cutler, General Secretary, and Mrs. Turnbull, Hon. Treasurer.

When the minutes had been read and confirmed, the President said that there was a general wish that the outgoing Treasurer, Mrs. Shuter, should have some small keepsake to commemorate her term of office, and, on behalf of the League, asked Mrs. Shuter's acceptance of a silver purse, suitably inscribed, and engraved with the Bart's coat of arms, and Mrs. Shuter, in accepting the gift, thanked the League for recognising her services in so unexpected and charming a way. Her work as Hon. Treasurer had, she said, been a great pleasure, but there was a good deal of hard work, and the new Treasurer would have her hands full.

Miss Cox-Davies then stated that, owing to the increased cost of production, it had been found necessary to make certain alterations in the *League News* during the period of the war. She also reported that Mrs. Wakeling (Hunter) a gold medallist of the hospital, had been appointed an Hon. Serving Sister of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Mrs. Wakeling has worked for the Joint War Committee both at St. John's Gate and also at 83, Pall Mall as a selecting Matron.

In the absence of Miss Hale, who was prevented by her professional duties from being present, Miss Le Geyt read the paper prepared by her on the work of the Women's Hospital Corps. She referred

briefly to its work in Paris at Claridge's Hotel in the Champs Elysees, and at Boulogne in the early days of the war. In February, 1915, Dr. Flora Murray and Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson were invited by the Director-General to take charge of the Endell Street Military Hospital, which they did with the assistance of thirty-six nurses, eighty women orderlies or probationers, and other members of the Corps. If, as was most probably the case, the hospital was enlarged, it was hoped the Corps would expand to meet the increased need.

THE BILL OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, by request, then gave a report on the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses, with special reference to the Nurses' Registration Bill promoted by the Central Committee. When last she reported to the League she had, she said, left off on a hopeful note, but she regretted that a conjoint Bill had not been agreed upon between the Central Committee and the College of Nursing, Ltd., owing to a difference of opinion on the constitution of the Governing Body to be set up in a Bill. The Central Committee had therefore amended its own Bill, incorporating all the clauses agreed upon between it and the College, including provision for the representation of the College on the General Nursing Council.

Mrs. Fenwick said she was present at the Special Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the 18th inst., though she took no part in its proceedings. The meeting had agreed to amalgamate with the College of Nursing if the Privy Council granted a Supplemental Charter and new Bye-Laws, under the title of the Royal British College of Nursing.

The new Charter provided for the admission of the laity, and the Royal British Nurses' Association, as such, would cease to exist, and with the omission of several provisions in the Constitution of the College, to which strong exception had been taken, it would be adopted, so that the Nurses Charter, for which they had worked so hard and paid so dearly, had been practically handed over to the College which thus acquired the prestige of the prefix "Royal," which, for a Company limited by guarantee, could not have been secured direct.

For the future the Royal Charter would be administered by many of the officials of hospitals which had so consistently opposed its grant to the R.B.N.A. in the past, and which, through their opposition, had done so much to render it useless to the profession at large for so many years.

A Bill was to be promoted by the amalgamated Body, and it remained to see and consider its provisions, and that the Central Committee would do.

After the meeting there was a Social Gathering in the Nurses' Home, which permits of happy reunion between the members, and which is always greatly enjoyed by them.

IRISH NURSES AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

A gentleman signing "Shamus," conducts a department headed "Women's Work in Ireland," in the weekly issue of the *Irish Times*, and he has given much space of late to the question of the organisation and registration of the Nursing Profession in Ireland. As we always think people know more about their own affairs than outsiders can tell them, we republish the latest article as follows:—

NOTES FOR NURSES.

THE COMING MEETINGS.

Miss Rundle and Miss Cox-Davies will visit Ireland within the next fortnight; on the 27th inst. will hold a meeting in Dublin, and on the 29th inst. in Belfast. The President of the Royal College of Physicians, Dr. O'Carroll, will take the chair at the Dublin meeting, which, by kind permission, will be held in the Hall of the College, Kildare Street, at 5 o'clock in the evening. It is to be hoped that the Matrons and Nurses of Cork will take an opportunity of asking these ladies to hold a meeting in their city. I understand that if application is made their wish will be acceded to.

NURSES' WISHES.

A prominent lady doctor recently remarked to me that the Nurses of Ireland will be able to achieve their ambition provided only and always that they can make up their minds as to what they want. In view of the innate truth of this remark, it is obviously desirable that the fullest opportunity may be availed of by the profession to hold public meetings, as by this means more than by any other they will have an opportunity of finding out what is best for them. I believe that the proposed College of Nursing will become the Royal College of Nursing, and if I may offer a hint in advance to the ladies who are coming to expound its possible advantages I would suggest that they should devote their especial attention before they arrive to conditions that are purely Irish. There are certain elementary matters of which they should take cognisance, as on their treatment of these will certainly depend their success or their failure. The first and most obvious is the question of control. On this subject they will require to be as definite as may be possible. Opponents of the College say "we shall be under the thumb of the English Council," and it is scarcely necessary to point out that this possesses the potentiality of being a trump card. There is no doubt that English and Irish Hospitals differ very widely, and if the Irish Nurse, hitherto unbiassed, is informed that she runs the risk of being outclassed, or of having impossible conditions imposed upon her, she will decline with thanks. There is, I understand, to be an Irish Board, and in my humble judgment it would be very advisable for Miss Rundle and Miss Cox-Davies to come here prepared to be definite as to the powers of this Board. How far will it have the authority, for

example, to settle what Hospitals will be disfranchised as training schools? There are many very small but very efficient schools, even in Dublin, and I do not for a moment believe that the Irish Medical Profession would, if left to themselves, permit small and inefficient schools to be used for the turning out of properly trained Nurses. This little item is calculated to cause an immense amount of friction if not capably and liberally handled. The Irish Nursing profession and the Irish Medical profession are too proud of their reputation to make an easy side-gate by which candidates, ill qualified, can slip through. The question at issue is in reality not so much the ultimate qualification of the Nurse as the settling of this qualification here. The matter is a delicate one, and calculated to cause a needless impasse, provided that opponents of the College discover a weak spot suitable for the purposes of wrecking it before a case for its establishment has been settled.

THE REGISTRATIONISTS.

In Ireland all nurses are Registrationists. I do not by this mean to imply that they are wedded to that party of Registrationists which offer official opposition to the College. There are a few of the leaders, including some of the most highly respected and able women in the country, who have laboured constantly and zealously, never sparing themselves in any circumstances, to uplift the Irish Nursing profession. These are, probably, allied to the opposition, but there is no doubt that their sincerity and fidelity are above reproach or suspicion, and if the College becomes a *fait accompli* they ought to have a foremost place in its counsels. Moreover, they are wholly in favour of a College. The idea of a College, and the idea of Registration, will find unanimous support in this country.

THE ACE OF TRUMPS.

Just one other matter. The ladies who are coming here may not be made aware when they arrive that the Irish Nursing profession holds the Ace of Trumps. We never like to appear to be impolite or discourteous, but let there be no mistaking the fact that it is well known and thoroughly appreciated here that it is in the power of Ireland to wreck any Bill brought through Parliament of which they do not approve.

I have been endeavouring week by week in this page, by interviewing prominent members of the Medical Profession and leaders of the Nursing Profession to shed as full light as possible on the situation so that Irish Nurses may be thoroughly prepared for change, or for declining to change. I have opposed the policy of acting and voting and discussing in secret, as I believe that this is the very surest way of keeping the Nurse in stagnant waters. For the same reason I am anxious to inform the advocates of the College of Nursing of our national idiosyncrasies, so that when they come here the air may be clear, and all parties may understand each other. I have detailed the chief difficulties, and, I may add, on

the always troublesome item of finance, I understand that the College have subsidised the Scottish Board, and that any funds collected in Scotland will be ear-marked for that country. The policy to be adopted here will require to be stated. I should also advise the ladies concerned to make clear the vexed question of the V.A.D.s. Speaking for myself, I was at first led to believe that the Registrationists claimed to be the champions of the rights of the trained nurse, and that the promoters of the College were insidiously endeavouring to slip these ladies through, and make them the equals, if not the superiors, of women who had spent their full term of apprenticeship in the wards, and passed all the necessary examinations. Now, I am credibly informed that the championing of the trained Nurse's rights was the motive which inspired the founders and promoters of the College. I think I am speaking the whole truth when I say that Ireland is unbiassed: that it will approach the subject with an open mind, and that the ladies who are coming here to advocate the establishment of the College will serve their cause best by facing the problems which I have enumerated with words that can bear no second meaning, and that cannot leave any ambiguity in the minds of those concerned.

POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

At their last meeting, the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association decided to invite the Supt. Nurses of all those Infirmaries, not at present recognised by the Local Government Board as training schools, to join them as Associates. They would be entitled to send suggestions and questions to any of the meetings. The Association meets quarterly—the last Saturdays in January, March, July, and October. The Executive Committee meet the last Saturday in each month. All questions received would be carefully considered, and any advice or opinion would be sent in reply, that the members were able to give.

Associates would be invited to an open meeting once or twice a year, when their presence would be warmly welcomed. The formation of centres in the provinces where members and associates could meet would be encouraged.

It is hoped that such a scheme should be of material advantage, as it would bring into touch the trained nurses working as Matrons and Supt. Nurses in the different Poor Law Infirmaries.

A large number of letters have already been received from Supt. Nurses wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity. We have been asked to state that if, by mistake, any have been overlooked and have not received an invitation, would they, if they wish to join, kindly communicate with Miss Barton, R.R.C. (President of the Association), Chelsea Infirmary, S.W., or the Hon. Secretary, Miss Alsop, Kensington Infirmary, Marloes Road, W.

A BRITISH NURSES' UNION.

The "passing of the Royal Charter" has given a few earnest nurses furiously to think, and the question which they have under consideration is—if the Supplemental Charter is granted forming a Royal British College of Nursing, and the Royal British Nurses' Association ceases to exist, in what form will the Nursing Profession in the United Kingdom reorganise so that it will have power of co-operation and free expression of opinion. It has been decided to hold a meeting at an early date to discuss this important matter.

The National Council of Trained Nurses is a consultative body which affiliates Leagues and Societies of Nurses together, and links them up with the International Council of Nurses, but its Constitution is not calculated to include all the practical activities specially applicable to a National Union. On the other hand, the National Union of Trained Nurses is doing very practical work for the nursing profession on sound democratic and self-governing lines, and would appear to be already the nucleus of what may become a really forceful and popular Organisation, as it is framed on the same lines as the British Medical Association, and the Teachers' Union. Power of expression the trained nurses of this country must have, and the "thirty years war" has taught us what pitfalls to avoid in future. Freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, and freedom of action, must be the aims of British nurses; a triune of human rights to secure which our Empire has elected to pour out its glorious blood and marvellous treasure in a furore of War.

"Per Ardua ad Astra," the motto of the N.U.T.N., has a happy aspiring sound, and its claim that it is "A Union to maintain the highest ideals of the Nursing Profession" is just what should appeal to us all, and we believe it will.

Several of the matrons and nurses who helped to found the British Nurses' Association at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, on that fateful 7th of December, 1887, are still very much alive. We hope that they will one and all attend the meeting it is proposed to convene. They are still amongst those whose professional ideals are of the highest, and whose courage is undaunted, and who can inspire a younger generation with that keen sense of professional responsibility for which their generation was so justly renowned, and without which any attempt to organize a profession is doomed to failure.

PROGRESS UNDER THE GREAT REPUBLIC.

Writing of the results of the sixth examination of nurses for license and certificate to practise as a "registered nurse" in California, Miss Anna C. Jamme says:—"The results of this examination have shown a higher percentage in general average than any previous examination, and the percentage of failures is less than in the two last examinations. . . . This is most reassuring to those concerned in the work going on in our schools, and especially to superintendents and instructors, those working devotedly in the interest of their school and their students." The Examination and Registration Boards in the United States are almost entirely composed of independent Superintendents and nurses of standing, nominated by the State Nurses' Associations, and not of those under the control of Hospital Boards. This principle of absolute fairness to graduate nurses is embodied in nearly every Nurses' Registration Act from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It will take this reactionary country, so far as working nurses are concerned, another fifty years before they are granted such a degree of emancipation, and, more's the pity, it is their own apathy which is to blame for the contempt and autocracy with which they are treated.

Whilst British Nurses are inviting lay control through their Royal Charter, the whole American nursing world is busy organizing preparatory to the grant of a National Charter for the American Nurses' Association, which is, of course, entirely composed of graduate nurses. In the liberal West, laymen and doctors would no more consider themselves qualified to be members of a professional Nurses' National Association than they would admit graduate nurses as members of medical organizations. To demand to control the American Nurses' Association would make them ridiculous and be laughed out of court. Miss Delano, Miss Goodrich, Miss Deans, and Miss Sly, together with the members of the State Associations, are working unceasingly for a favourable consideration of the Bill for the National Charter, which the District Committee of the House of Representatives will have under consideration at an early date. Heartily we wish all success.

Miss Julia Hurlston is resigning the position of Matron to Hanover Park V.A.D. Hospital, Camberwell, and will at an early date take part in the management of a Nursing Home in London.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.—Miss Mary Livingstone Cameron has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and has held the positions of Ward, Theatre, and Night Sister at the Children's Infirmary, Liverpool, of Night Superintendent, Home Sister and Assistant Matron at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, and of Matron at the Children's Hospital, Sunderland.

The Hospital, Malvern.—Miss Alice Lilian Wethered has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Children's Hospital, Sevenoaks, and at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, in which institution she was promoted to the positions of Sister and Assistant Matron.

SISTER.

Cameron Hospital, West Hartlepool.—Miss Florence Grassham has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Dewsbury General Infirmary, and has been Night Charge Nurse at the Doncaster Royal Infirmary, and has had experience of Military Nursing at the 4th Northern General Hospital.

Bowling Park Colony, Rooley Lane, Bradford.—Miss A. McKail has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Salford Union Infirmary, and has had experience of fever nursing under the Metropolitan Asylums Board; and has been Sister, temporary Night Sister and temporary Home Sister at the Holborn Infirmary, Highgate.

HEAD NURSE.

Rosa Manson House of Recovery, New Barnet.—Miss Henrietta Phoebe Bunyan has been appointed Head Nurse at the above House of Recovery, which is in connection with the New Hospital for Women. She was trained at the West Herts. Hospital, Hemel Hempstead, and at the St. Marylebone Infirmary; and has been outpatient nurse and dispenser at St. Mary's Hospital, Plaistow; Charge Nurse at the Brook Hospital, Shooter's Hill; and dispenser at the Children's Hospital, Glasgow. She has also had experience of private nursing.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the London Branch of the National Union of Trained Nurses will be held at the Offices, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, on February 3rd. Trained members are requested to attend the business meeting at 2.45, and associates, scattered members, and friends are invited at 3.30 p.m., when an Address will be given by Miss Cancellor on "The Bills for State Registration of Nurses," and by Miss Lawrence on "The Need for Unity among Women Workers."

NURSING ECHOES.

The committee of the Poplar Hospital for Accidents have agreed to a scheme for the increase of salaries to sisters and nurses, following on the line of that adopted recently at the London Hospital.

The friends of Miss K. V. Macintyre, and she has a host, will be glad to know that already she is regaining health and strength in the splendid air of Argyleshire, and quite looks forward to coming into touch with the nursing world again. It has been a great grief to her to "down tools" when the country is so greatly in need of experienced matrons and nurses.

In his report for the half-year ended December 31st, 1916, to the St. Thomas (Exeter) Guardians, Dr. Atkins, Medical Officer of the Poor-Law Institution, stated that the average amount of sickness had been experienced, and the nursing had been efficiently performed. Mrs. Andrews, Local Government Board Inspector, had inspected the Infirmary, and was thoroughly satisfied with the arrangements and with the nursing of the sick. Her reports could be considered highly satisfactory.

The Chairman (Preb. F. F. Buckingham) said he thought it was only right that the Guardians should hear what an excellent report Mrs. Andrews gave of the work of the Institution. She said that the general administration in the Infirmary had greatly improved, and thanks were due to the Matron as Superintendent Nurse. Mrs. Andrews mentioned that, in the event of an increase in the work concerned, the appointment of another nurse would have to be considered if the excellent standard was to be maintained. The Chairman added that considering they were working with a rather depleted staff at the present time, he thought they could feel that everything was being done there in a satisfactory manner, and he was sure the outside public would be glad to know that the comfort of the patients was given careful attention, and that the latter were not suffering as a result of these war times.

Mr. Courtney observed that they were proud of such an efficient staff.

Writing from Baghdad in *Nurses Near and Far*, F. E. Anderton makes an appeal for nurses in the Mission Field. Writing of the upheaval in the nursing world brought about by the war, she says:—

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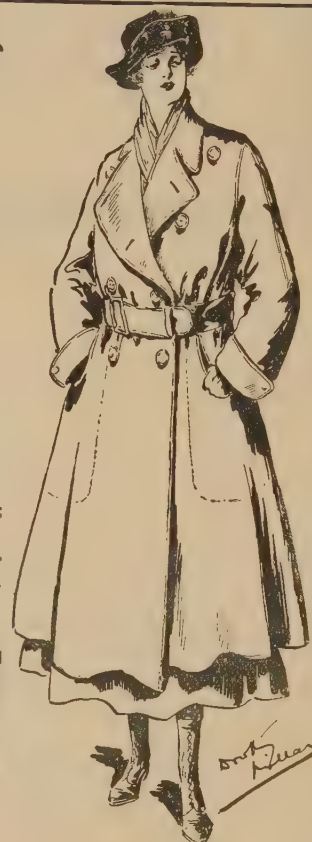
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(Mrs.) H. S.

The Hon. Mrs. Graham Murray is highly pleased with the beautiful "Studington" Coat, which was supplied to her last week, and which she finds most useful and very warm, yet light.

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the nurse newly awakened to the possibilities of unlimited self-sacrifice when the war is over? Will she be content with a lesser ideal? Doubtless many will, but to those who have felt the joy of sacrifice, and the giving of one's skill and service to meet a universal need at this time, an appeal surely will not come amiss to them to use their influence in a still wider and more needy sphere, namely, in that of the Mission Field. It has been found during the war that the number of trained nurses has been inadequate for the pressure of work to be done. In the Mission Field the numbers have never been adequate to the needs of the work, not because the work is deadly monotonous or poorer than one gets at home, but that it means going further afield, and in many cases working under more difficult conditions than are ordinarily met with in Europe. In France there are few nurses who would not gladly welcome any order that would bring them within touch of the advanced positions in the field, no matter what difficulties had to be overcome.

Medical Mission Stations represent many an advanced post, where the need of skilled nursing is greater than in any Western town. Countless numbers of women and children of other nations suffer needlessly in time of sickness for lack of skilled attention, someone to comfort and help them through difficult times amidst the ignorance and superstition of their native practices and neglect.

After the example which the non-Christian nations have had of the spirit of so-called Christian nations, is it not a great opportunity, given to us as trained nurses, to give our skill and service to help them to realize that real Christianity is something which makes its followers try to help and uplift those in distress? If a thousandth part of the nurses who have been doing military nursing abroad during the war were ready to offer for this work in more distant lands, what might not be accomplished in helping to bring about that spirit of universal brotherhood and peace among the nations for which we all long.

We are asked to make known that two fully qualified nurses are needed for the Hospital in connection with the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong, India. A very important part of the work consists of the training of Indian girls as nurses. All particulars can be obtained from Miss Richardson, 52, Lower Sloane Street, S.W.

We hear that Miss Mayers is satisfied with the progress of the Imperial Nurses' Club. The bedrooms are greatly in request.

NURSING PROBLEMS AND OBLIGATIONS.*

It will not be easy to do full justice to this book, which, in our humble opinion, is of the greatest educational value (using the word education in its most comprehensive sense—" *Preparation for complete living* "). It is an arresting book—one which must not be "swallowed," as Bacon says, but rather "chewed and digested."

It comprises a series of talks to Nurses, which the writer inscribes to the memory of her mother, who, she says, "gave me this motto—'To be, not to seem.'"

The concentrated essence of the substance of the book is pithily presented to the readers by Richard C. Cabot, the distinguished physician on the visiting Staff of the Hospital, in the preface:—"What she here records is well founded, because it is a transcript of what any honest, intelligent Nurse finds written into her life by the successes and failures of her work. When she and others have followed the path described in this book, things have gone right; otherwise wrong."

Miss Parsons' method of heading each chapter with an apt quotation from high Authorities, in order to focus the attention and interest of the reader, is of great value, as it serves the purpose of a short prologue, and *should* induce the intelligent Nurse to study the books whence the quotations are drawn. In the Introduction, great stress is laid upon this as a *necessity*. Nurses are strongly recommended to study Nursing History, and biographies and autobiographies of pioneer Nurses, not alone for their historical value, but also for their great ethical value to the student Nurse. The special books recommended are, of course, first, "A History of Nursing," by Nutting & Dock; "The Life of Florence Nightingale," by Sir Edward Cook; "The Reminiscences of America's First Trained Nurse," an Autobiography by Linda Richards; and "Under the Red Flag," by Mabel Boardman. The writer speaks in terms of reverent gratitude of the work of pioneers.

The Introduction is not the least interesting part of the book, for it depicts the mind of the authoress, which is broad, receptive, and hospitable; and with it she digs a deep and strong foundation for the educational structure of the nurse in training. She has a clear vision of all that a Nurse ought to know, to do, and to be. "The aim of the Superintendent," she says, "should be to have the Nurses so alive to the vital things of life, and to their debt to the workers who have preceded them, that, for their own part in life's service, they will seek the work in which they can do the most good, and the people with whom they can best solve some of life's problems."

The book is divided into two distinct parts.

* By Sara E. Parsons, R.N., Superintendent of the Training School for Nurses, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston.

The first deals with "Ethics" entirely, to which five short chapters are devoted in a systematic classification, such as: "Ethics and Hospital Organization," "Ethics and the Probationary Period," "Ethics and the Student Nurse," "The Student Nurse and Co-Workers." "Talks to Senior Nurses" is the subject of Part II. It would be hard to find a better or more concise definition of ethics than that given by Dr. Richard Cabot: "*Doing what you ought to do.*" In telling Nurses what they ought to do, Miss Parsons does not adopt the didactic method exactly. In the sympathy and understanding which she shows throughout all her "talks," she exhibits rather the spirit of a mother with a deep sense of parental responsibility. Her purpose throughout is to encourage Nurses to realise themselves, in freedom of thought and conscience and speech; to strengthen and develop in every possible way their own characters, and to recognise their obvious and undoubted duties and obligations towards their own training school and the Nursing Profession at large.

"She has her definite rights as well as her definite obligations. There is much that she should respect, but nothing that she need fear, so long as she is entirely honourable in her personal and professional relations. Her soul should be full of courage and aspirations. . . . above all, she must remember that the work needs her own interpretation, initiative, originality, anything but slavish imitation. . . . While in process of training, the Nurse must, of course, use the methods that have been accepted as best, but she must not for a minute suppose that what seems best to-day will necessarily seem best to-morrow, and she must always hope to find some way to adjust and re-adjust what she has been taught to the new conditions in which she will work." The writer's breadth of mind is clearly *felt* as an atmosphere throughout the book. To keep an open mind is the guiding principle upon which she is very insistent. The Massachusetts General Hospital has the honour of being the first in the States where Social Service was established as a definite and essential Department of work. We have had the pleasure of seeing the work of this great Organization, and we are in agreement with Miss Parsons when she says: "This new-old work, now called social service, that is springing up all over the Country, humanizing medical work and counteracting the frigidity of science in its application to the human body, is permeating the hospitals, and its spirit is being gradually absorbed into the nursing structure. Soon it is surely going to be generally recognized as a part of the training-school curriculum." In the chapter on "Qualifications for Executive Work" the writer says: "Every Nurse will naturally plan to join the nurses' alumnae and State associations. (N.B.—Alumnae Associations are equivalent to our Hospital Leagues.) You will, it is hoped, always subscribe for, and read the *American Journal of Nursing*, which is owned

and edited by the American Nurses' Association. . . . Until Nurses manage their own affairs, they cannot hope to develop much business ability, or to win respect as an independent professional body. We gain independence only through experience, and experience costs in time, strength, and money." British Nurses would do well to endorse these remarks in a practical manner.

"In maturing one's self for one's best work," the writer says, "a Nurse should remember that from graduation she should keep abreast of the professional literature, and participate in the professional organizations. If one does not keep up with history in the making, it is difficult to catch up later. Knowing the writer as we do, we are not surprised to find that she gives a wholesome word of advice about criticism:—"Criticism is good for us all; it is wounded vanity that hurts us when criticised, but it stimulates us nevertheless." No point that might add to or hinder a nurse's success is overlooked. It is not too much to say that there is everything in this book to guide, to encourage, to cheer, and to inspire. It is not a large book, and it is printed in clear, moderately large type, and, being essentially intended for the student Nurse, the writer has thoughtfully provided two blank pages at the end of each chapter for the purpose of notes. It ought to be in the hands of every nurse in this country, but as that cannot be, we fear, as it appears only to be published in Boston, we hope to say something more about it in the next issue of this Journal.

B. K.

THE "WELLCOME" PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE RECORD AND DIARY FOR 1917.

A little book which is always a welcome gift at this time of year to the numerous nurses who make a hobby of photography is the Wellcome Photographic Exposure Record and Diary, published by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Ltd., Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C. The title of the opening article in the new edition of his valuable annual is "A Short Guide to Photographic Practice." It is really descriptive of the whole publication which compresses an extraordinary amount of information into a very small space. It deals with every essential phase of photography from exposure to the finished print, and makes the expert advice extremely practical by the provision of really useful tables, and by that simplest of all exposure estimators, the "Wellcome Photographic Exposure Calculator."

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The Northern Hemisphere and Tropical edition is prepared specially for use in all countries in the Northern Hemisphere and Tropics, and is sold in Great Britain at 1s., post free 1s. 1½d.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"THE CHASTE WIFE." *

"It was a very hot day in the middle of summer. The sky was cloudless, and as Priscilla lay in the hammock under a big mulberry tree she seemed to hear the whole garden droning with the song of busy bees bumbling as it were with satisfaction at a harvest so happily plentiful. Near to Priscilla were two young men, both of whom were in flannels, as though they had either been playing or were about to play tennis.

But the two young men made no stir in the direction of their game—the one because he was in love with Priscilla, the other because he was an unusually lazy person.

There were many flowers in the sunny part of the garden. Romeo, a little cat, "toyed fancifully with a crawling insect upon a neighbouring path."

This very attractive picture of well-being was not for Priscilla long after she is introduced to the reader.

Dorothy Moore about the same time was sitting by an open window in a room near the Upper Street, Islington, waiting for her brother Stephen to join her. She lifted her hands to look at the lines on their palms and their already work-worn fingers.

She forced her eyes away to a contemplation of the brown wall-paper. "Years hence," she thought, "I'll tell Stephen how I hate brown as a colour. Perfectly filthy it is." Could anyone take an interest in this ugly old place. It was something to be loathed and never in all her days to be escaped.

It was from these depressing surroundings that the young journalist Stephen loomed upon the horizon of beautiful and fortunate Priscilla Evandine, captured her fancy and married her with little or no opposition from her prosperous parents, and the endowment of attractive well-being disappears.

Hilary Bandoureau, the young man in the tennis flannels, and the well-filled purse, is left to swallow his chagrin as best he may.

Besides Stephen's poverty, he has a skeleton in the cupboard in the shape of a worthless old father, who is possessed of the knowledge of an episode in Stephen's life with which Priscilla is unacquainted.

In other ways Stephen is quite honest with Priscilla, as a letter written to her before her marriage shows. Alluding to her parents he says:

"They're both splendid, but would they draw the line at me. They must have had quite other ideas. They couldn't want you to marry a shabby failure. If they did we should have to persuade them, shouldn't we? I should like you to see my house. It would be a shock; but after that you would certainly know once and for all whether you could bear to marry me."

* By Frank Swinnerton. Martin Secker, London.

Priscilla's love survived the shock, and later we find them happily established in a little home of their own that was neither luxurious nor sordid.

"He loved Priscilla above all things. Entering the pretty room with its sparse furniture, he found the atmosphere reassuring. His pleasure at seeing Priscilla there, in a very simple dress of blue linen with her delicate, fair face and fair hair looking so adorable, was intense.

"Her clear eyes, her indescribably candid manner, her small head, her grace, all these moved him deeply."

A jarring note in the book is the bad taste of both Stephen and Dorothy in the way they speak of their father. True, he was a worthless old scoundrel, but his condemnation should have been left to other lips than those of his son and daughter.

The whole book impresses one with the idea of indefiniteness, as though the author had strung together quite interesting incident without any very clear idea of the issue.

The title is misleading, and not one that would guide one in recommending it. But the tale is quite sound and free from objection.

There is much literary merit in its style, but one lays down the volume with the feeling of having arrived nowhere. Priscilla was, no doubt, "a chaste wife," but there seems to have been no particular reason why she should not have been, for surely a temporary misunderstanding with her husband would not have been a sufficient excuse for the contrary.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

January 26th.—The Matrons' Council: Annual Meeting, 4.0 p.m.; Tea, 5.0; Discussion. 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

January 27th.—Meeting in the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin. To discuss the College of Nursing, Ltd. Dr. O'Carroll will preside. 5 p.m.

January 31st.—The Royal Sanitary Institute, Session 1917. Discussion: "The Physical Welfare of Children after Infancy from National, Social, and Public Health Standpoints," to be opened by W. Leslie Mackenzie, M.A., M.D. Chair, Sir George Newman, M.D., D.P.H., 90, Buckingham Palace Road. 4.30 p.m.

February 3rd.—National Union of Trained Nurses: Annual Meeting of London Branch, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, 2.45; Address on Nurses' Registration Bills, 3.30 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

☞ "Don't worry! To worry about the past is to dig up a grave; let the corpse lie. To worry about the future is to dig your own grave; let the undertaker attend to that. The *present* is the servant of your Will."—Haddock.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

MANY A MICKLE MAKES A MUCKLE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been *thinking!* and the product of my thoughts is this:—The value of very small contributions of money towards the support of any propaganda work whatsoever is much greater, from the moral standpoint, than large contributions from the few. We probably have before us a fight for a *just* Registration Bill. There are more than 4,000 members of the State Registration Society, which is the same thing as saying there are that number of intelligent fair-minded nurses who are anxious to do what they can to assist in winning such a victory in the best interests of the profession. My deduction is this:—We will take the round number of 4,000. If each member of the State Registration Society were to keep a money-box and drop into it every week *just one halfpenny*, no more (unless she wished), she would be contributing the small sum of 2s. 2d. a year, and the total contributions of the 4,000 members would amount to the substantial sum total of £433 6s. 8d.! How does this appeal to your readers? If favourably, what is to hinder us from *all beginning at once and doing it?* May I quite diffidently suggest that the value of it will largely depend upon the *regularity* with which it is done. Suppose we keep the money-boxes on our dressing-tables, where we can see them while we are dressing our hair, and we drop in our halfpenny before going down to breakfast on Sunday morning. A good day—Sunday. Busy people like nurses require aids to memory. I have great pleasure in sending the contents of my money-box for the year in advance—2s. 2d.—just as an earnest of my intention.—Yours most hopefully,

BEATRICE KENT.

P.S.—What could we not do with an assured income of £433 6s. 8d.? And how pleased we should all feel with ourselves that we had contributed it! Let us begin.

[A Registration money-box is a novel idea. We hope it may be taken up by those members of the S.S.R. who realise what an immense influence the Society has exercised in furthering the cause of nursing organization by the State with its very limited means. We think every trained nurse ought to put aside a little sum annually in support of professional ideals—say a penny in the pound of what she earns. With this self-inflicted tax we should soon attain our aims.—ED.]

SILVER AND ELECTRO-PLATE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I support "A Sister, T.F.N.S." in her protest against Matrons bombard-

ing Nurses trained at the hospitals over which they preside, and who have left the institution with "Letters from Olympus." I have seen the verbose document sent out by Miss Lückes, warning "Londōners" against the College of Nursing. She did the same thing thirty years ago when the B.N.A. was started—and I am sorry to say our revered Miss Nightingale also warned "Nightingales" against joining professional Associations in her letter to us about the same time. Why cannot Matrons realise they have no right to dictate to Nurses *en bloc* as if they had no minds of their own, and as if they must all think and act with one accord. Human nature is very perverse, and the mere fact of being treated like a fool is apt to antagonise one's sympathies. Imagine "Nightingales" after all being only "Electro-plate" in the estimation of Miss Lückes. We consider ourselves 18-carat gold.—Yours truly,
"A NIGHTINGALE."

CORRESPONDENTS PLEASE NOTE.

If "A Member Q.A.I.M.N.S. (R.)" and "Audi alteram partem" will send their names, not necessarily for publication, space will be found for their letters. No anonymous communications can be inserted.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

February 3rd.—Describe the symptoms in a severe case of influenza. Suggest proper nursing to be employed in such a case. State the period of incubation and the period of isolation. What complications may occur in the course of the disease?

February 10th.—How would you prepare for giving a Hypodermic Injection? State what a hypodermic tray should contain.

February 17th.—Describe Bed-making, and how to lift and move patients.

February 24th.—Describe how to give a nasal douche, the articles used, and danger to avoid.

NOTICE.

Owing to the Railway Companies advancing the rate of carriage of all publications sent by passenger train by 25 per cent., the newsagents are beginning to feel that they cannot supply penny publications to the trade at the current rate. As it is impossible to reduce the cost in the case of a penny journal beyond the very substantial reduction per quire at which newsagents now acquire them, and as we constantly receive complaints that nurses cannot promptly obtain this journal, we would advise all those who really value it to become subscribers and to order it weekly from the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free; six months, 3s. 6d.; three months, 1s. 9d.

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**"My tenth child—the
 only one I have been
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BABY WILLIAMS.

14, Bird Street, Liverpool,
 26th March, 1915.

This is my tenth child and the only one I
 have been able to breast-feed; two months was
 the longest I was able to breast-feed any of the
 others, and in consequence they were very
 delicate babies. After the birth of this tenth
 child I was very ill and weak. I tried Virol and
 my health improved at once, so that I have
 been able to entirely breast-feed him till ten
 months old. If I stopped taking Virol I was
 unable to feed him. He is a fine, strong,
 healthy boy, and I am so much stronger than I
 ever hoped to be again that I should recom-
 mend all nursing mothers to take Virol.

ANNIE WILLIAMS.

"In all the cases in which I tried it, the
 women not only expressed themselves as
 much stronger, but looked much better and
 gained in weight at the rate of about four
 to five pounds a week."—DR. FELDMAN,
 Lecturer in Midwifery and Hygiene for the
 London County Council.

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Prize Competition.

RULES FOR COMPETITION.

1. Any reader of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING may compete for the prize of **FIVE SHILLINGS** which will be paid to the **writer of the best article of from 300 to 750 words on the following subject—**
"Describe the symptoms in a severe case of Influenza. Suggest proper nursing to be employed in such a case. State the period of incubation and the period of isolation. What complications may occur in the course of the disease?"

The dated Coupon for January 27th, published on this page must be cut out by the Competitor, and enclosed with the article she sends, with her full name and address inserted. This answer should be posted not later than **January 27th**, to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole St., London, W., marked on the envelope "Prize Competition." **The Name of the Winner of the Prize and the Prize Article will appear on February 3rd, 1917.**

2. The Editor's decision must be accepted by each Competitor as final and unquestionable.

Prize Competition Coupon

January 27th, 1917

Name of Competitor

Address

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the new offices, Queen Anne's Gate Mansions, Dartmouth Street, S.W., on January 18th, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was considered from a midwife formerly approved for the training of pupils with reference to the circumstances and conditions under which certain certificates signed on behalf of a candidate for Examination, and purporting to bear the midwife's signature, had, in fact, without notice to the Board, been signed by another person not qualified to sign them.

It was agreed that the midwife be informed that the Board highly disapproves of her action in allowing anyone but herself to sign her name without an accompanying explanation to the Board.

That the candidate be informed that the Board has taken notice of her statement to the secretary that the midwife "ought to know better than allowing her daughter to sign on her behalf"; whereas, the candidate was present at the time this was done, and done at least without her protest; and also of her having signed a statement in her schedule that "the above certificates are in all respects correct and true." The Board highly disapproves of her conduct, and will make a note of the occurrence. Meanwhile, it permits her to enter for the February Examination.

Correspondence was considered with a candidate of Netherlands nationality desirous of entering for the Board's Examination. A letter was read on the same subject from the Consul-General of the Netherlands. A letter was also read on the same subject from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

It was agreed that in view of the communication received from the Commissioner of Police, Anna Schut, alias Smidt, be admitted to Examination.

Correspondence was considered with a candidate for Examination, who had tendered a certificate of marriage which had been tampered with. It was agreed that, having furnished the Board with a fresh and unaltered copy of her certificate of marriage, the candidate be admitted to Examination.

Correspondence was also considered with a candidate for Examination, who had tendered a certificate of birth which had been tampered with. It was resolved that the candidate be not admitted to Examination until she has explained to the satisfaction of the Board the circumstances attending the alteration of her birth certificate.

Correspondence was considered with the Matron of an Institution recognised by the Board as a Training School for midwives, with reference to

the Examination Schedules of two candidates on whose behalf she had signed the certificates of training certifying that on January 1, 1917, they had undergone a course of training in midwifery extending over a period of six months, when, in fact, their training had then extended over a period of less than five months as she well knew.

It was agreed that the Institution be informed that the Board takes a very serious view of the signing of untruthful certificates; that in the present case there is no question that the action of the Matron was due to an "oversight," or that "it was unintentional"; that the Act of Parliament (Sec. XII) provides penalties of twelve months' hard labour for this offence; that the offence is aggravated by the fact that the Institution is one from which the Board might have expected a high standard of honour; that the Board, in view of the gravity of the offence, postpones judgment until its next Session.

A letter was read from the Colonial Office transmitting a transcript of an Ordinance passed by the legislature of the Straits Settlements, entitled: "An Ordinance to amend the Midwives Ordinance, 1915," and requesting the observations of the Board thereon. It was resolved that the Colonial Secretary be thanked for his communication, and that he be informed that the Board notes that the New Ordinance incorporates most of the amendments suggested by its letter of October 15th, 1915; it observes however that the legislature of the Straits Settlements has not thought it desirable to omit the words "habitually and for gain" occurring in Section 14 (2) of the Ordinance of 1915. The presence of these words in Section 1 (2) of the Midwives Act, 1902, has been found productive of much difficulty in enforcing the provisions of the Act; it is hoped that an early opportunity may be found of amending the Midwives Act by the omission of these words.

A letter was considered from the Town Clerk of Middlesbrough enclosing a copy of a communication addressed by the Coroner of Middlesbrough to the Medical Officer of Health, stating that at an inquest held by him on October 12th, 1916, on the body of a new-born child, the Jury had added a rider to their verdict expressing the view that a midwife should not be allowed to notify as stillborn a child born before her arrival at the case where no registered medical practitioner has been in attendance at the time of birth. It was resolved that the Town Clerk of Middlesbrough be thanked for his letter, and that he be informed that the Board has noted the suggestion conveyed in the rider of the Coroner's Jury for consideration on the next revision of the Rules.

A letter was considered from the London County Council, transmitting for the information of the Board, a copy of their scheme for the diagnosis of venereal diseases.

It was agreed that the London County Council be thanked for their communication.

APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY REMOVAL OF NAME FROM THE ROLL.

Applications were received from eighteen women for the removal of their names from the Roll on the grounds specified.

The applications were granted and the secretary was directed to remove their names from the Roll of Midwives, and to cancel their Certificates.

APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION AS LECTURER.

The following application was granted pro tem :—

Isaac Crawford, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Edin.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The report of the finance committee showed that the deficit at the end of the financial year was heavier than usual. £350 had been lost on examination fees, and printing, owing to the increase in prices, had cost £312 more.

PENAL CASES.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at Queen Anne's Gate Building, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, on Friday, January 19th, to consider charges against eight midwives, with the following results :—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Ann Davis (No. 10226), Emma Edwards (No. 20639), Elizabeth Harris (No. 31849), Ellen Mary Eliza Kerens, C.M.B. Examination (No. 31706), Mary Mitchell (No. 31062), Ann Winstanley (No. 3574).

Adjourned.—Annie Belshaw, C.M.B. Examination (No. 33318), Eveline Alice Farnes, C.M.B. Examination (No. 44353).

Final Report.—Harriett Burton. No action taken.

The case of Midwife Belshaw, charged with failing to obtain medical assistance for, and neglecting to notify two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, was complicated by absolutely contradictory evidence in two documents from the same witness, and also from the fact that the health visitor treated the eyes of an infant during the lying in period. Miss Paget said she considered the health visitor had taken over the case, but the Chairman held that it did not exonerate the midwife from obeying the rules of the C.M.B.

The charge against Midwife Davis was that the case being one in which no presentation could be made out she did not obtain medical assistance, and further that when the arm presented she pulled upon the arm in order to assist delivery. Medical evidence showed that when delivery was effected the child was still born, and one arm was attached to the body only by a strip of skin.

The midwife who was present denied the charge.

The Chairman described the case as one of the worst that had ever been before the Board.

Midwife Farnes was charged with causing to be inserted in the press an advertisement to the effect that she was opening a home where Twilight Sleep and Painless Childbirth could be obtained

and further by appending to her name the initial letters C.M.B. contrary to the rules.

The midwife, who was present and defended herself, said that she had worded the advertisement in a hurry and had omitted to state that the treatment would be given under medical supervision. It had not been her intention to administer it or to act as a midwife. She had notified the Local Supervising Authority that it was *not* her intention to practise. With regard to the initials of the C.M.B., she had thoughtlessly inserted them and regretted having done so. The patients in her home were sent in by a medical woman who administered the treatment, but she would receive any patient who desired to choose their own medical attendant.

The Board adjourned the case till March, in order that the correctness of these statements might be proved.

In the case of Midwife Harris, the Medical Officer of Health for Cambridgeshire gave evidence, and proved the unreliability of the midwife's statements by saying that it took him an hour to walk to the top of Great Orme, and the midwife had stated she accomplished it in twenty minutes. The mother of the infant stated that the midwife had bound up the powder box in the baby's binder, causing it much discomfort.

The charge against Midwife Kerens was another case of failing to recognise a transverse presentation and medical help was not obtained for two days after the rupture of the membranes. The doctor was unable to effect the delivery and the patient was removed to the hospital, hysterectomy performed, and death ensued.

The Chairman said it was an awful tragedy, but these were insidious cases which had caught out many medical men. The inspector gave evidence that she had been unable to make the midwife grasp the gravity of the situation, or that she had been to blame.

The Chairman in passing sentence said that it was more her attitude to what she had done than for the result that had ensued, that the Board decided to remove her name, but at the age of thirty-five she must be capable of improvement unless she was hopelessly stupid, and there was such a thing as reinstatement.

LECTURES AT THE BATTERSEA POLYTECHNIC.

A course of six lectures on Acts and Regulations relating to infants and children, and subjects of special interest to Health Visitors and Child Welfare Workers, will be delivered at the Battersea Polytechnic, Manresa Road, S.W., by Miss M. F. Malim (Bedford College Hygiene Diploma), on Tuesdays at 5.45 p.m., beginning February 20th. Application for forms of admission should be sent to the secretary. Fee for course, 5s.

SCOTTISH MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION.

The Duchess of Montrose has accepted office as the first President of the Scottish Midwives Association, and the Lady Balfour of Burleigh and Lady Susan Gilmour are amongst the Vice-Presidents.

THE Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society

(APPROVED SOCIETY)

THE TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY is prepared to receive the names of Nurses who desire to pay their State Insurance through a **strictly Professional Organisation**. The full control of the Society is in the hands of the members and a professional Committee who, therefore, are well acquainted with their special needs, and it is obvious that it is **to the advantage of Nurses** to insure with a Society that is entirely devoted to their interests. The ordinary benefits of the Insurance Act are offered to members, and every effort is made to help them to obtain these benefits **with the least possible trouble**. **Efficiency and Economy** are the watch-words of the Society, and its success proves the value of its methods.

So far the demands made upon the Society's funds for sickness benefit have been considerably less than was anticipated, and its position is, therefore, an excellent one from a financial standpoint.

Nurses who wish to join are requested to send a post card for application form to

The Secretary

TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY
431, Oxford Street, London, W.

The Registered Nurses' Society

**431, OXFORD STREET,
LONDON, W.**

Telegraphic Address : "SOROR, LONDON."

Telephone No. 1712 GERRARD.

The Society has been in existence for twenty years and only accepts on its staff Nurses who have had at least three years' training in a good general Hospital, and who possess the highest personal credentials.

The Society secures to the Nurses the just remuneration for their work.

The Society is managed by a professional Committee.

WHY THE SOCIETY SUCCEEDS

The Medical Profession and the Public support the Society with confidence, because a high standard of professional efficiency is maintained, and it works on just economic principles.